

Issue  
#1

~\*THANK YOU\*~

Jesse Amesmith/Green Dreams

Dylan Ewen

Cooper Leardi

Mom & Dad

John Pinkham

The Womb

and babes everywhere.

about

Basement Babes is a collection of art, writing and thoughts related to or inspired by feminism and Boston's underground music. Born out of a kickass female friendship, this zine aspires to create an inclusive creative space for people of all genders, races and backgrounds who are interested in a more forward-thinking community. As this is our first issue, most of our contributions and submissions are from friends, but we are open to your ideas for future issues and collaborations! You can reach us via email at [basementbabeszine@gmail.com](mailto:basementbabeszine@gmail.com) or visit our tumblr [basementbabes.tumblr.com](http://basementbabes.tumblr.com).

Thanks for your interest, and please spread the word!

Love,  
Jessica and Yasmina

Jessica Leach  
9/28/14



Woman

## BASEMENT SHOW ETIQUETTE

*Your basic guide to not sucking at the*

*next basement gig!*

**Come for the music, stay for the party.** Frat parties are for getting drunk and making an ass out of yourself. House shows are for listening to music and having a good time. So drink some beer, have some fun, but don't forget why you came and be respectful of that.

**Respect the house.** The funny thing about basement/house shows is that it's in a house... so, people live there. That means even when you and everyone else have left, someone has to clean up after you and continue living in that space. Keep that in mind.

**Be discreet.** A lot of cool places have been shut down or slowed down because of cops. Let's not be an accidental narc and keep address sharing to a secretive minimum. Don't invite someone you don't know, don't advertise locations, and when you're at the show, be quiet and be cool!

**Donate.** Some shows will charge at the door, most of them will just ask for a kind donation. You should totally do that. Why? It's really nice that people have put in the time and effort to book/promote/play a show, and they deserve some thanks for that, so don't come to a show without cash. Sure, you won't necessarily be turned away, but you're just going to be a lame freeloader. Buy some merch, donate to the house, volunteer your time - do your part.

# THERAPY BY D. EWEN



2014

[Untitled]

by John Pinkham

These are not my tears  
But those of humbled masses  
Gathered for me to speak  
Of a love thats only ashes.

I've only known him thusly  
A hushed box with no remnants  
Of this gaffer prior know  
As flesh and real presence.

But God's acre has burned  
Thus and so, this crypt has stemmed  
And such grief in perpetuity  
Aids this eclipse to never end.

These could be my tears  
And I too could hear a poem  
By a man who offers nothing  
But stone sturdy for when the wind blows

So go, go in peace  
Lest you lay here by my feet  
Reduced to only ash  
And a dead love's empty dream.

INTERVIEW TIME!

# JESSE AMESMITH

Jesse Amesmith is the lead singer and guitarist of the psychedelic, stoner punk band Green Dreams from Rochester, NY. She is also a former member of the band Total Babes. She is a total yogi, total feminist and a total babe herself. Visit her band's website at [greendreams.bandcamp.com](http://greendreams.bandcamp.com) or check out her yoga practice at [goodwitchyoga.com](http://goodwitchyoga.com)

How would you like to see women be more involved and respected in smaller or local music scenes? How have you seen that happen at this level?

Playing more music! Going to more shows! Fighting the good fight! ... Start your own bands, throw your own shows, put together your own zines, and don't be afraid to put yourself out there. If you're pissing people off you're probably doing something right... eventually I realized that I don't want to please people who aren't radically opposed to the patriarchal police state, who don't identify as feminist or have given up to irony and apathy, and that I'm too busy doing me and helping other people do them to worry about re-educating middle class white punx who are too cool for school. That just ain't my scene, knowwhatimean? I love meeting all the young people who come to Green Dreams shows and tell me they've never seen a feminist punk band before... I just tell them "and YOU can do it too."



Have you noticed any sort of difference in treatment towards you or other female musicians at shows or on tour compared to your male counterparts?

The biggest difference I've noticed is that my credibility as an artist and a musician come second to my status as a woman...From what I've seen women in music are held to a higher standard and judged more harshly than their male peers. People LOVE to dismiss a woman in a band, try to say she's just there for the novelty or the affirmative action of it all, but how is anyone ever going to do better if they don't start somewhere.

Who do you cite as influences to you as both a musician and/or a feminist?

Buffy the Vampire Slayer! True story, the first song I wrote for Green Dreams was inspired by the theme song to that show, by that shitty band Nerf Herder... Musically I'm very inspired by non-musical things, books I read, dreams I've had, animals I've known... I've been listening to a lot of ambient stuff recently, nature sounds and singing bowls and white noise. We're writing a new record, so I try to lay off listening to music that sounds like my band and go into my own musical

landscape. I'm really inspired by and feel very lucky for the peer community of radical babes I know that make music, my friends are what give me the strength to keep my chin up even when the blows keep coming... I'm inspired by the struggle, and by the people who fight the power every damn day.

What resources would you recommend for learning more about feminism, women in music or related causes?

Just get on the damn Internet! It might not be there forever so take advantage while you can! Some websites I like are [feministing.com](http://feministing.com), [blackgirldangerous.com](http://blackgirldangerous.com), [autostraddle.com](http://autostraddle.com), [chaninicholas.com](http://chaninicholas.com), and I find a lot of good stuff by searching through tags on tumblr. I just finished reading *Parable of the Sower* by Octavia Butler, I would recommend any of her books, and one of my all-time favorites is "Still Life With Woodpecker" by Tom Robbins. *Hit So Hard* is a documentary about drummer Patty Schemel (Hole, Upset) that rules; I think I watched it 2 times in a row. *Sedmikrásky* (Daisies) is a 1966 Czech art film about 2 young women that I'm obsessed with. It was banned for "depicting the wanton"! \*swoon\* If you haven't already watched *Broad City*, *CHANGE THAT*, they are the funniest people on television and I can't get enough. Never have I ever been able to relate to women on TV the way I can relate to Abbi and Ilana.

To read Jesse's full answers, check out our tumblr: [basementbabes.tumblr.com](http://basementbabes.tumblr.com)!

# Guitars, Good Looks, and Screaming Girls

- |                       |                          |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|
| 1) Look Into My Eyes  | Janelle Monáe            |
| 2) We Hit a Wall      | Chelsea Wolfe            |
| 3) What's In My Head? | Fuzz                     |
| 4) The Light Within   | Goat                     |
| 5) One                | Yamantaka // Sonic Titan |
| 6) Heathen Child      | Grinderman               |
| 7) Health Plan        | Pissed Jeans             |
| 8) Something Ugly     | Screaming Females        |
| 9) Headbanger         | King Tuff                |
| 10) Secular           | Pleistocene              |
| 11) Be A Body         | Grimes Visions           |
| 12) VII               | Perfect Pussy            |
| 13) In Heaven         | David Lynch              |



# Girl-Powered struggle

QUEEN

Everything Girl

TOUGH AS LEATHER

FOOLED  
BY THE  
ROCK-  
AND-ROLL  
PERSONA.

HEY GOOD  
LOOKIN'

Think Like a Man

Hear Her Roar



# FAKE BAND NAMES

ONE INCH TRICYCLE

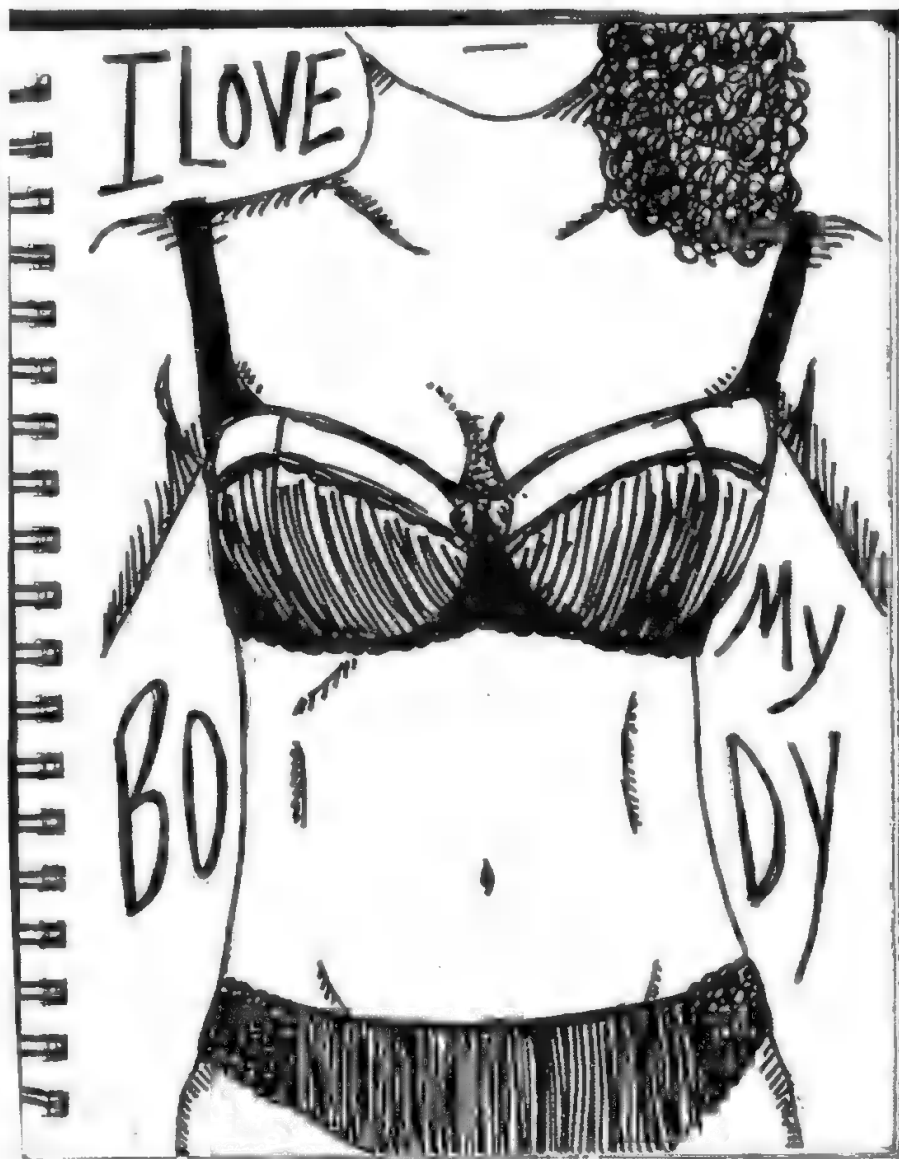
GENITAL DIRECTION

SAD THUGS

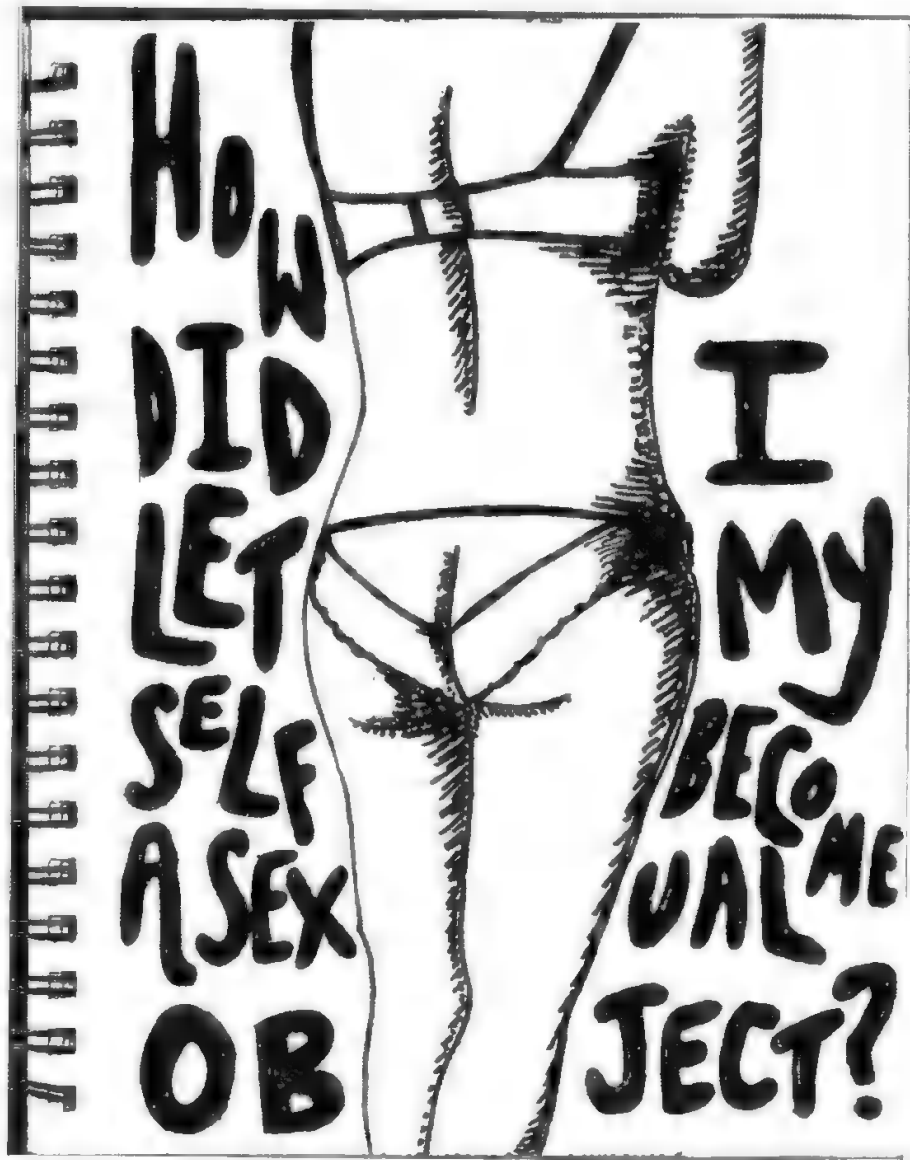
FOOT FETISH

LOST PHONE

BLACK METAL CHAIRS



By Yasmuna Tawil



By Yasmina Tawil

do it for the younger babes  
by Jessica Leach

If you're a teenaged girl, the world doesn't really care about you. Your opinions aren't considered, your feelings brushed aside, and your interests deemed trivial. You're the easiest joke to make, and each blow at your expense dismantles your already tumbling sense of worth.

There are too many industries devoted to breaking you down and building you up the way they want you. You aren't beautiful - without our makeup. You aren't loved - until you listen to this song. You're fat - unless you eat this food, use this diet book.

Young women are the most fragile, and the most susceptible to peer pressure, making them the most likely to fall victim to eating disorders, rape, depression, anxiety, suicide...

We live in a world that systemically grabs hold of an entire population and squeezes them dry, and convinces them that their enemies are not the places selling them lipstick and low self-value... it's the mirror in the bathroom, or the other girls in school, or the food you once enjoyed filling yourself with but you now purge yourself of.



I'm afraid of having a daughter because I'm afraid the world that raised me won't be any different for her. I'm afraid that she, too, will hold razors to her skin and put heat on her hair and erase all the details that make her who she is.

If the human body is a blank canvas, then ours are manufactured by Maybelline and redistributed by Cosmo, and we are sold the idea that we are always meant to improve, meant to please...

Someday I'd like you to understand that you're building a world of women who will depend on the products and messages we sell because that's all we've given them. And all that time and precious energy we spend telling women they need high heels and mascara, we can give them telescopes and guitars and have them discover constellations and write poems and make their own world. If we can do it for boys, why can't we do it for girls?

all women

In 2008, I caught my breath  
on the edge of his mouth  
When he forced me against a brick wall  
A cigarette still burning in my hand

He later told me I was disgusting and  
Manipulative and I was only sixteen  
Just sixteen years old.

I often think about how all women  
Young and old,  
Are stripped of their clothes and power  
In one fell swoop  
And we are still expected to want sex  
Even if we aren't encouraged to ask for it

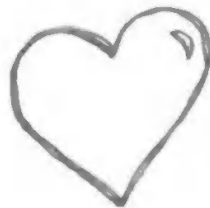
Now I am 22 and my heart and body  
Have more scars from more men  
and I am still afraid of what can happen  
When I'm alone or drunk  
or vulnerable or sad

My body is my home  
And my mind holds onto its key  
I distract intruders  
With talk of art and politics  
But they still read only the curves of my exterior

My hips and hair  
My breasts and eyes  
Until they find their way  
To every valuable belonging I've stored in my heart

It doesn't matter how thick you make your skin,  
Or how loudly you scream their names  
Nobody heard me when I said no.

# So Not a Love Story



"Harry, I'm going to let you in on a little secret. Every day, once a day, give yourself a present. Don't plan it. Don't wait for it. Just let it happen. Could be a new shirt at the men's store, a catnap in your office chair, or two cups of hot, black coffee like this."

AGENT DALE COOPER, TWIN PEAKS



proves she's no pushover

WHY DEPICT ONE OF THE most compelling female artists of our time as a shallow, spoiled prom queen with nary a profound thing to say?



